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SOVIET JEWS FEAR FORCED REMOVAL TO BIROBIDJAN; WATCH KREMLIN SPEECHES

MOSCOW, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Jews in the Soviet Union are still afraid that they may be forced to move from various parts of the USSR to Birobidjan, the section in Siberia which was at one time proclaimed by the Soviet Government as a "Jewish Autonomous Region," David Miller, special correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency established here today. (Mr. Miller is now in Moscow on a Pulitzer Scholarship from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.)

Soviet Jews may talk a little about Birobidjan, but they watch carefully the addresses by leaders of the Communist Party. They keep looking for a shift in policy--a shift they hope will never come. They would like to think of Birobidjan as a dead issue. They prefer not to discuss the matter at all and to dismiss the rumors of Jewish removal to Birobidjan as fabrications. But the rumors are there.

Twice the size of New Jersey, Birobidjan is the only place in the Soviet Union today where Yiddish can be found on street signs, where a Yiddish-language newspaper--the twice-weekly "Birobidjaner Shtern"--survives and where a segment of Yiddish tradition remains. But Yiddish has disappeared from the schools and Russian is used more than Yiddish for every-day conversations. The Yiddish theater is closed and only one makeshift building remains in use as a synagogue.

Even this bare data is not available to Soviet Jews since their own sources of information are tightly controlled. Visits by Westerners are rare--impossible for tourists--and information is scarce and usually outdated. Jews outside the area know nothing of events there.

Birobidjan in Disfavor in Moscow; Postage Stamp Marks it "Jewish Province"

Official Soviet policy has changed frequently toward Birobidjan as the power struggle in Moscow continued. Since its creation in 1934, Birobidjan has gradually slipped into complete disfavor. The territory, the original proclamation read, was "not intended to furnish the Jewish race throughout the world with a Jewish political life, but merely to extend to the Jewish masses what is offered to other minorities."

During the purge of 1936 and 1937, many Jews were arrested and some shot. The library, which had contained more than 30,000 Yiddish and Hebrew volumes, was destroyed. Many rare books were burned. The Yiddish Theater and schools were closed.

A case in point is the cancellation mark used on postage from Birobidjan. The stamp used today bears the letters "JAC" for Jewish Autonomous Oblast (Province). Previously, the postmarks read "District of Birobidjan," the fifth change since the first Jewish families arrived. The first postmark was in Yiddish.

The living standard, never high, has failed to rise above the subsistence level. The cultural level, which also was never high, has failed to hold its own, according to information reaching Moscow. Young Jews are reported anxious to leave for better opportunities elsewhere. They want to be as much like other Soviet citizens as possible and appear to have lost interest in anything Yiddish.

At the same time regulations make it difficult for any Soviet citizen, regardless of nationality, to move about. Permission is required to move from one city to another and movement into crowded cities like Moscow is closed indefinitely because of a critical housing shortage.

The major exception to this restriction is the drive to populate the underdeveloped regions of Siberia and areas in the Far East like Birobidjan. The program to settle these "virgin lands" has resulted in intensive drives to promote patriotism and adventure among the youth. Success among Jews, however, is believed to be almost nil.

In the Yalta Papers published by the State Department, Stalin was reported to have told President Roosevelt that the experiment had failed because Jews would remain only two or three years and then leave for city life. Jews, in fact, have never wanted to leave their homes in the Western Soviet Union for the primitive region which lacks any historic, sociological or spiritual ties with the Jewish people.

HAMMARSKJOLD ADVOCATES "CLARIFICATION" OF LEGAL ASPECTS ON SUEZ

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 2. (JTA) -- In spite of Israel's insistence that the Security Council or the General Assembly must intervene against Egypt's anti-Israel blockade of the Suez Canal, it appeared today that Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold still feels the "appropriate authority" for settlement of that issue is the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

This view developed today as Mr. Hammarskjold filed with the Assembly, which is to convene September 15, one of the year's most important statements on overall United Nations policy and principles. The document is the introduction to his annual report to the Assembly. While the Secretary General's yearly report is filed earlier, the introduction is customarily held back until just before the Assembly convenes, so as to include all latest developments.

In the part of the introduction dealing with the Suez issue, the UN chief, after recalling that "attention has again repeatedly been drawn to questions raised by present policies" regarding the Suez Canal, declares: "The issue has important legal aspects which may be considered as meriting further clarification, but it is also part of the general Palestine problem."

In his own statements, at news conferences, Mr. Hammarskjold has repeatedly hinted at the desirability of shifting of the Israeli complaints against the Suez blockade to the World Court. However, it is known that he did not project that "solution" to United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser, when he met the latter in Cairo two months ago, in his futile effort to shift Nasser's position regarding the Canal blockade against Israel.

Reports to U. N. Assembly on Various Arab-Israeli Problems

The introduction to this year's report touches on a number of other facets of the overall Middle East and Arab-Israeli problems, including the controversial Hammarskjold program for integration of the Arab refugees in the general economy of the Middle East, as well as continuation of the United Nations Emergency Force "at its present strength."

The UN chief reports there has been "little or no progress" in regard to Middle East matters of "direct concern" to the United Nations, including among such matters the refugee problem, UNEF, and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

In another section of his introduction, Mr. Hammarskjold hints at a new approach toward the Security Council's activities. He proposes that the Council reshuffle its work so as to hold "regular meetings in executive session." Until now, the Council has met only to consider specific complaints by member states. Except in very rare cases, Council meetings have always been held in public.

The proposed change is seen here as one that Israel would certainly oppose. Observers here believe there would be very strenuous opposition also among other member states to transformation of the Council into a body discussing all aspects of the international situation, without restriction to specific complaints, and in secret sessions.

WESTERN POWERS URGED TO GUARANTEE BORDERS OF ISRAEL AND ARAB LANDS

LONDON, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- A prominent British Conservative called today on the Western Powers to guarantee the boundaries of Israel and its Arab neighbors as a means of reducing tension in the Middle East, and of enabling a solution of that area's outstanding problems.

Sir Victor Raikes, Conservative member of Parliament for 26 years until his recent retirement, said today in the London Daily Telegraph that "if Britain, France and the United States would accept and guarantee a viable State of Israel, coupled with a pledge to the Arab states that their boundaries would also be protected against any possible Israeli aggression, Arab fears would be greatly alleviated. The refugees could be settled mainly in Arab areas, and proper financial compensation arrived at."

"It is only on this sort of basis," he asserted, "that stability can be restored in the foreseeable future." He pointed out that, in Israel, "the Jews have created a small but virile state." He warned that they would fight any attempt to truncate the state but "this does not rule out adjustments of boundaries, especially along the Jordanian frontier."

Sir Victor declared that "the Great Powers should realize that if this small outpost of Western civilization were destroyed with the aid of Communist-supplied arms--otherwise any assault would fail--Soviet prestige would be increased, the Lebanon would fall to Syria and the isolation of our ally, Turkey, would be almost complete."

AMERICANS OPEN MORTGAGE BANK IN ISRAEL WITH \$1,200,000 CAPITAL

TEL AVIV, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- A new mortgage bank with a paid-up capital of \$1,200,000 was opened here today. The bank, owned by a holding company incorporated in Panama, has been financed by a group of North American and Latin American investors, headed by a well-known Mexican banker and Zionist leader, Elias Sourassky.

ISRAELI SECURITY MEN WITHHELD CHURCHILL'S INVITATION TO BEN GURION

TEL AVIV, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- The extreme secrecy maintained over Premier David Ben Gurion's recent vacation in southern France prevented the Israeli leader from accepting a luncheon invitation from Sir Winston Churchill, it was disclosed today.

Britain's wartime leader was vacationing on the Riviera, and was informed that Mr. Ben Gurion was staying in the vicinity, the newspaper Haaretz said today. Sir Winston telegraphed an invitation, but Israeli security officials, covering up Mr. Ben Gurion's movements, did not reveal that the Premier was already on the way to Marseilles to board a ship for the return trip home, and the invitation was not delivered to him until he was aboard.

Mr. Ben Gurion, the paper said, sent a message to Sir Winston expressing regrets that he had been unable to be his guest.

CAPTAIN OF NORWEGIAN SHIP QUIZZED BY EGYPT FOR HOURS ON MAIL TO ISRAEL

BRUSSELS, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- The Israel-bound mail from Australia, confiscated 10 days ago by Egypt, came into Egyptian hands because of a rerouting of the ship carrying the mail. It was learned today when the ship stopped here. It was learned also that the vessel's captain was put through a stiff, six-hour quizzing by the Egyptians.

The Israeli mail was part of a shipment of 145 sacks of postal matter being sent from Australia, aboard a Norwegian vessel, the S.S. Tarn. The Tarn was scheduled to take the mail to Genoa, for reshipment. However, when it reached Aden, the Tarn was ordered by its Norwegian owners to trans-ship the mail at Port Said. It was during that process of trans-shipment at Port Said that the Egyptian officials discovered eight mail sacks addressed to Israel, confiscated those eight sacks, and subjected the Tarn's skipper to severe questioning.

KNESSET MEMBERS AMONG FIRST RECIPIENTS OF LARGE FAMILY GRANTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Two members of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, who are fathers of a total of 15 children, were among a group of first recipients of special family allowances who attended a brief ceremony today, in the office of the Minister of Labor. The new law, which became effective yesterday, provides allowances, from Israel's Social Security program, to parents with four or more children.

The two Knesset members were Dr. Caman Kahane, of the Poale Agudat Israel, father of eight, and Shlomo Lorencz, of Agudat Israel, father of seven. The only Minister present at the ceremony for whom the event was not entirely a happy one was Finance Minister Levi Eshkol. The total cost of the allowances for the first year is expected to reach 7,000, - 000 pounds.

ISRAEL MAY SEEK RETURN OF INGE TOFT; REJECT'S HAMMARSKJOLD'S POSITION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- In a move to break the deadlock over the impounding of the Inge Toft at Port Said since May 21, and UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's failure to shake Egyptian intransigence on the issue, the Israeli Cabinet will discuss, at its meeting Sunday, a proposal to instruct the captain of the Danish freighter to return to Israel with his cargo, it was learned here today. It is still open to question, however, whether the United Arab Republic will permit the Inge Toft to leave for Haifa with its cargo.

The Cabinet will also consider on Sunday a proposal to lay the entire Suez issue before the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

Meanwhile, there was mounting dissatisfaction here in official Israeli circles over Mr. Hammarskjold's entire attitude on the Suez issue. Dispatches today from Montevideo, Uruguay, where Mr. Hammarskjold has been visiting, reported he said at a news conference that Egypt was not the only nation holding a ship. He referred to the fact that, last May, Israel seized a small Egyptian coastal vessel trespassing in Israeli waters.

It was pointed out that the two cases were not at all on the same level. In the case of the Inge Toft and other recent Egyptian actions, Egypt actually violated a United Nations Security Council resolution ordering cessation of interference with all shipping through the Suez Canal "wherever bound." This fact was the basis of a statement made by Foreign Minister Golda Meir that Egypt was "in conflict" with the UN. Mr. Hammarskjold's attitude is that there is no conflict between the world organization and Egypt. Mrs. Meir's statement, without naming the UN chief, is seen as a categorical rejection of Mr. Hammarskjold's position.

BIPARTISAN GROUP IN CONGRESS DENOUNCES PROPOSED WORLD BANK LOAN TO NASSER

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Sharp bipartisan attacks against the World Bank's pending loan to the United Arab Republic, for widening the Suez Canal, were voiced by a number of Congressmen in the House of Representatives tonight.

All the speakers, both Republican and Democratic, rapped the proposed loan to Egypt on account of its blockade of the Suez Canal against Israeli shipping and goods. Among the speakers were Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican; Rep. Kester Holtzmann, New York Democrat; Rep. Roman Pucinski, Democrat, Illinois; Rep. Charles A. Boyle, Democrat, Illinois; and Rep. Herman Tell, Democrat, Pennsylvania.

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN CUBA NEED NO LONGER FEAR BLACKMAIL, CASTRO SAYS

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba gave specific assurances, in a recent 90-minute interview with a Milwaukee attorney, that discrimination against any religious or minority groups including Cuban Jews, would not be tolerated by his regime, it was reported here today.

The assurances were given by the Cuban leader to N. Paley Phillips, former president of the Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Claimants and Compensation Attorneys, during the interview which took place last week. The Cuban leader told Mr. Phillips that "no longer would there be any necessity for Jewish merchants--or any other, for that matter--to pay 'protection money' to stay in business."

Mr. Phillips also reported that he had talked with many Cuban Jewish businessmen and that they told him they were experiencing more freedom in business and communal activities, as well as in religious practices. Mr. Phillips said he had found that attendance at synagogues had increased in recent months and that more Cuban Jews were attending services than previously.

COURT ACTION TO RESTRAIN RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SOUGHT IN MIAMI

MIAMI BEACH, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress here today announced that a new legal effort to halt the introduction of religious programs in public schools will be made in the Dade County, which includes Greater Miami.

Bernard Mandler, chairman of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the South Florida Council of the American Jewish Congress, said that the new lawsuit is similar to that filed several weeks ago by Harlow Chamberlain. The plaintiffs in the second lawsuit are all affiliated with churches or synagogues.

Mr. Mandler said that the suits contend that the presence of religious activities in the public schools--including prayers, Chanukah and Christmas presentations, Easter and Passover programs, readings from the Bible and other similar practices--all violate the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida.

The chairman said both suits are an innovation in the field of separation of Church and State litigation because they do not concentrate on a single sectarian practice but seek to end a variety such actions. The Dade County School Board has asked the court to dismiss the Chamberlain suit and presumably will respond similarly to the second lawsuit.

JEWISH GUARD ASSIGNED TO PROTECT KHRUSHCHEV DURING VISIT TO U. N.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 2. (JTA)-- When Soviet Prime Minister Nikita S. Khrushchev visits the United Nations, September 18, one of his guards will be a strapping, six-foot three, 220 pounds UN guard named Mitchell Goldstein. Goldstein is a Jew, who speaks Yiddish fluently.

Among the 150 security guards at the United Nations, ten are Jews. A year ago, when there was a likelihood that Israel Prime Minister David Ben Gurion might visit the UN, Goldstein was assigned to act as Mr. Ben Gurion's personal bodyguard. This time, in preparation for Mr. Khrushchev's visit, six men have been assigned as his bodyguards, Goldstein being one of the half-dozen.

PINHAS LAVON, HISTADRUT LEADER, ARRIVES IN U. S.; WILL ADDRESS AFL-CIO

NEW YORK, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Pinhas Lavon, secretary general of the Histadrut, Israel's General Federation of Labor and a former Minister of Defense, arrived here today aboard an El Al Constellation for a three-week visit in the United States. He made the trip at the invitation of George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, to address its bi-annual convention scheduled to open in San Francisco on September 17.

Mr. Lavon will be the luncheon guest of Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell in Washington on September 9. Other guests at the luncheon will be members of the executive board of the AFL-CIO and high officials of the State and Labor Departments.

NEW CHIEF RABBI OF IRELAND INSTALLED; DUBLIN MAYOR ATTENDS CEREMONY

DUBLIN, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Dr. Isaac Cohen was installed as Chief Rabbi of Ireland in ceremonies at which he called on the Soviet leaders to allow Russian Jews to live under the same conditions of national and cultural independence afforded to other Soviet minorities.

Dr. Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, attended the installation as did the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Provost of the National University of Ireland and members of the diplomatic corps.

JEWISH YOUTHS FROM FRANCE ARRIVE IN TURKEY FOR SPECIAL ENCAMPMENT

ISTANBUL, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- Forty Jewish Boy and Girl Scouts from France arrived here for a special encampment. A summer camp at nearby Florys has been placed at the disposal of the Scouts by the Turkish Students Union. The Jewish Community of Istanbul has arranged to provide the Scouts with kosher foods and with facilities for observance of Hebrew dietary laws.